

A True
RELATION
OF THE
SUCCESSSES & ADVANTAGES

Obtained by the Most
Christian King's
ARMY,
Commanded by the
Vicount de Turenne.

Translated out of French.



In the SAVOY:
Printed by *Tho. Newcomb.* 1675.

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RELATION

OF THE

SUCCESS & ADVANCEMENT

of the British Army

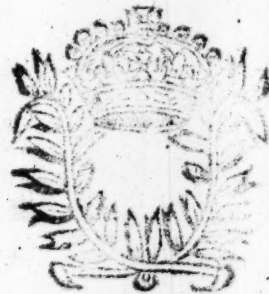
Christian Kings

ARMY

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Vicount de Turenne.

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London

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*A True Relation of the Successes and Advantages
obtained by the Most Christian King's Army, Commanded
by the Vicount de Turenne.*



The Heads of the Confederates, having, for some time abused the Credulity of the People of Germany, by making them believe they would carry the War out of their Territories, and transport the same into the Heart of France, at the Head of a Victorious Army, they perswaded them that they staid only for the Arrival of the Elector of Brandenburg to beat and destroy the Vicount de Turenne (whose Victorious Successes at Zintzeim, Ladembourg, and Molsheim, they took special care to disguise) they promised their Souldiers no less then the Plunder of the whole Province of Champagne, or at least a peaceable and convenient Winter Quarters in the three fertile Bishopricks, of Metz, Toul, and Verdun; the blocking, nay taking, of Philipsbourg was already concluded at the Diet of Ratisbonne; every thing ready to attack Treves, Brisac, Beffort, and even to Reconquer the Franche Comte, in as short a time as His Majesty had spent in the taking it.

All these great Projects made so publick by the noise they spread among all their Allies, so vain in their sequels, and so confidently affirmed in all their Printed Relations; all these Projects, I say, coming so far short of their Execution; The said Generals about three Months since reduced themselves to the resolution of not loosing a third Battle, either by shunning, or by not taking the occasion of hazarding it, when it was offered them. And after many long uncertainties, and an infinite number of different Opinions (which are diseases common and natural to Armies that are commanded by divers Heads) they at last resolved to pass into the higher Alsatia, to get Forrages; to make Incursions towards Nancy, or for some other great Enterprises, the Success of which has not yet discovered them to the World.

The Vicount de Turenne who long before had foreseen that the Confederate Troops having no provision of Victuals, nor no Amunition Bread fixt, could not possibly subsist together in a Body; and that if they were once Quartered separately he might attack them with advantage. They being thus dispersed, resolved to march with his Army by the Mountains of Vange, to get into the Plain towards Beffort, after he had secured both Sauer and Haguenau. The News of his March spread it self immediately in the Enemies Army. The ways he took in his March to reach them, seemed to their apprehension inaccessible; and in so rigorous a Season, they could not conceive it possible (being as it seems little acquainted with great Enterprises) that after a Campagne of ten Months, our General could form a Project, the greatness of which struck Admiration in them; and the difficulties of the Execution, which they believed insurmountable, had in a manner lulled them into a fearless security, when they, of a suddain, received certain intelligence of the brave Resolution of that Prince, by some of their own Run-awaits belonging to some of their Regiments dispersed here and there at Epinal, Remiremond, &c. Upon this unexpected News, they made a Detachment of Horse and Dragoons, with a considerable Body of Foot, and great Preparations of all sorts both to Block up, and to defend the Avenues, and narrow Passages between the Mountains; all which he passed with his

Army, without meeting with any other resistance, but such as Nature, and the hardness of the Season laid in his way.

The King's Army all this while could not possibly march but in Bodies separate, their ways being wholly different, and altogether difficult, notwithstanding which, by a prudence, and a foresight extraordinary, those Troops, who quartered in the most remote places from the others, did not run any danger of being surpris'd or beaten; they often Encamped in the Snow; the Fatigues sustained both by the Officers and Souldiers were painful and toilsom, and such as nothing but their Zeal of contributing to the glory of the King's Armes, and the Example of their General, whose care was to order such Lodging as might suffice, and to prepare all necessary Provisions and Ammunition for his men: But the Journeys of the Armies in their March, were not long enough to afford the Enemies time to repair the Fortifications at Colmar, and Schlestadt; which Fortifications, His Majesty (whose great Wisdom can foresee every thing) had in his late March through *Alsatia*, caused to be demolished.

On the 29 of December last past, His Majesties Army arrived within two Leagues of the other side of *Bessort*. The Vicount de *Lorraine* being well assured that the Emperors Army had retired behind the River *Ill*, and that the Troops both of *Brandenbourg* and *Lunembourg* were on the side of *Colmar*, advanced towards *Mulhausen*, at a place where he knew the River had several Fords, might be passed with ease, having with him the Gendarmerie, Commanded by the Marquis de la *Trouffe*, the Regiments of *Catena*, and *Boncomp*, which were in *Bessort*, with those of *Orleans*, and *Saintaoust*, of the Brigade of *Sourdis*.

That Prince sent the Marquis of *Harcourt-Beyverton* with a Squadron, at the head of a Ford to *Mulhausen*, a Neutral Town, and allied to the *Suissers*, who brought him word that the Enemies Baggage were filing off, and that their Troops were moving; which News obliged him to go himself in Person to observe their posture to the very brink of the River, where he was no sooner arrived, but he spied six Squadrons of theirs, ready to receive him, upon which, the Marquis of *Montauban* Mareschal de Camp, immediately Forded over, at the head of the Regiment of *Orleans*, whereof he formed three small Troops, commanded under him, by Monsieur de *Marville*, an Officer of a singular Merit. The six Squadrons of the Enemy seeing our men passed over, advanced immediately to charge them, thinking to have made them repass the River, being commanded to defend that passage, and hinder the rest of our Cavalry from Fording over, who then stood about 400 Paces from that place. The Marquis of *Montauban* perceiving their intent, charged them so briskly, with his Sword in his hand, that he put them into a disorder. The Chevalier de *Sourdis* arrived with his Brigade a moment after, and falling upon them made an end of breaking them, and the Marquis de la *Trouffe*, who all this while had sought a place Fordable, having found one, and by his coming, having doubled the Number of the Gendarmerie; overthrew and defeated five Squadrons more, who were come to sustain the first six. Monsieur de *Monclars* commanding the Cavalry of our Army, did lead our Squadrons to the Charge.

In the mean time, the Cavalry of the Emperor, Duke of *Lorraine*, and the Bishop of *Munster*, stood in the Meadow, behind a small Hill, which covered, from our sight, a small Plain, from whence the Enemy sent continually fresh Troops to supply the rooms of those who were defeated by ours. The which place the Marquis of *Montauban* being desirous to discover, and venturing too far alone, was taken by an Officer and eight Horsemen, who set upon him, and was, by them, carried away Prisoner. The Encounter growing more and more, both important and difficult, and the Combat deeply engaged on both sides, Monsieur de *Foucaut*, and the Count de *Lorge*, Lieutenant Generals; the Count de *Roye*, and the Marquis de *Genlis*, Mareschals de Camp, passed over the Water to make our Squadrons reunite again, who through

through too much heat in pursuing the Enemies, had broke into some disorders upon which, they charged them afresh with the like vigor. The Ground where we fought was streightned, which gave us way to form a Front, near upon as broad as that of the *Germans*, whose first Line was soon overthrown, and forced upon their second.

Nothing but confusion and terror could be seen among their Troops; no more obedience to the Orders of their Commanders, and even command it self ceased immediately after. The Count de *Roye* fought valiantly at the Head of the Gendarmerie; the Count de *Lorge*, with great courage and conduct, did his part in the Action; the Sieurs de *Foucault*, *Genlis*, and *Monsieur*, had a great share in the Success; and *la Trousse* and *Sourdis*, behaved themselves, from the beginning to the end of the Engagement, with all possible valor and gallantry. The Vicount de *Turenne*, who did incessantly send his Orders by the Sieurs of *Harcourt*, *Beveuron*, and *Saint Point* his Aids de Camp, mistrusted the Enemies, who had a reserve of five Battaillons, and much Cavalry hid behind the Hill, would have rallied again; and perceiving we had but one Head, which was not seconded, he passed over the River with his two Squadrons of *Catene* and *Boncour*, which he had kept for his own Guard, and with design to employ them in some important occasion: But the Confederates being broken and disheartned, betook themselves to flight, and run hastily into those Defiles or Paths that led into that small Plain where they stood in Battalia before; and the Night drawing near, they endeavored all they could to secure the scattered fragments of their Routed Army out of our sight.

All this while the Main Body of the Kings Army was two long German Leagues from the place where the Combat had hapned; those Troops which had been engaged in it, having charged several times without intermission, were very much fatigued and wearied, and but a very small number. The Horse conducted the Prisoners and Horses which they had taken; and the day being spent, it was not possible to get any other advantage, or to pursue the Victory any farther at that time.

The Marquess de *Baden*, Major General *Caprara*, Major General *Dunevald*, Sieur *Dalambin*, and all the other Commanders of the Confederates were engaged in this Action: In which a Colonel who commanded the *Munster* Troops, the Majors of *Caprara* and of *Dunevald*, 18 Captains or Lieutenants, 200 Cavaliers, two pair of Timbals or Kettle-drums, with 17 Standards or Colours, were taken. The Chevalier de *la Roque*, Captain in the Regiment of *Sourdis*, on our side, was killed. The Count de *Broglio*, Lieutenant of the Gendarms of *Burgundy*, being charged by two Squadrons of the Enemy, one of which took him in the Flank, was wounded, fighting valiantly; and the Sieur *Sanguin*, Ensign of the said Company was run through the Throat with a Sword, at the end of the Combat; the Sieur de *Rosamel*, under Lieutenant of the Gendarms of *Flanders*, was shot through the Arm with a Pistol; and the Marquess de *Beaumont*, Ensign of the Scottish Gendarms, was shot in the Thigh with a Musket shot; the Marquess de *la Fare*, Under-Lieutenant of the *Dolphin's* Gendarms, and the Marquess de *Lusignan*, another Under-Lieutenant of the *Scots*, kept their Squadrons close together, when ever they charged, the Sieurs de *Lanyon*, the Marquess de *Comminges*, the Chevalier de *Lansun*, and all the other Officers both of the Gendarms, and Light-Horsmen; the Count de *Tallart*, Colonel of the Kings Croates, being there a Volunteer with some others, did bravely that day. It is not possible to name them all here, nor to make a retail of every particular Mans actions; but thus much may be said in general, that they all shewed in this occasion as much vigor, resolution and conduct, as possibly can be expressed; where only 14 Squadrons, far stronger by their audacity then by their number, defeated 2500 Foot, and 6000 Horse, some of which were routed without fighting. Part of the Runaways fled directly to *S. Croix*, where the Elector of *Brandenburghs* head Quarter was, and the other to *Wissheim*, where the Prince of *Bour-*

nonville had stayed, with some Regiments of the Emperors Infantry. Whereupon, these Generals being surprised at the news which the present disorder of them that brought it, did but too much confirm, decamped, and went away with great precipitation.

The Elector of *Brandenburg* led his Army towards *Colmar*, from whence he was not very far; and the Prince of *Bourbonville* followed near upon the same way, doing all he could in his March, to Rally and Encourage the remainder of his defeated Troops: The principal Officers that commanded them in the Action reciprocally complaining, and accusing each other as faulty in their Conduct, and guilty of their ill Success; producing several Witnesses in their own justification, and composing their several Manifests and Reasons for their proceedings, dispatching the same to *Vienna* to the Emperor.

Nine hundred Horse of theirs, and even several Officers, passed over into *Switzerland* to *Basle*; whether it were that they feared they were pursued, or that they took that occasion to desert the service, is not known.

The Night following our side got some Baggage of the Enemies, which they found abandoned by them, and took many prisoners that straggled up and down from those few Colours, which escaped from our hands. The Marquis de *Montrevel*, Colonel of the Regiment d'*Orleans*, the Count de *Marchin*, Lieutenant of the Gendarms of *Flandre*, and the Sieur de *Saintaoust*, who were gone a Scouting the day before the Combat, brought likewise a great number of prisoners with them, which they had taken about the most remote Quarters of the Enemy. Their Infantry being dispersed by their own fear, saved themselves by the help of the Night, Ditches, and Woods; only the Regiment of *Pavia* excepted, which consisting of above 900 Men, effective, threw themselves with their Arms, Baggage, and ten Colours, into a great House, about a thousand paces from the Field where the Combat was fought, and surrendered the next day upon discretion, ambitioning, it seems, the honor to be taken whole in one Body, with all their Officers.

The first of this instant, all our Troops advanced as far as *Ensisheim*, forsaken by the Enemy, where the Chevalier de *Sourdis* entered with 600 Horse, and 200 Dragoons: The day following, the Ammunition Bread was distributed to the Army, and many Cavaliers of the Enemy were found dispersed up and down the adjacent Villages, which neither went about to defend themselves, nor yet to run away; and who were taken prisoners. The third day information was brought, that there were some Troops of the Confederates in *Ruffach*. The fourth, all the King's Army marched that way, and four Squadrons which defended the Bridge, were repulsed by our Vanguard, and the Town refusing to Surrender at Discretion, the Brigade of *Lansin* was left about the Avenues to keep 300 Dragoons of the Elector of *Brandenburg*, 150 Makers, and 100 Muskettiers, that were there in Garrison, from retiring out of the Town; whilst the Vicount de *Turenne*, who sought for a greater number of Enemies to encounter, went forward to a certain place, about a league distant from that, where he thought to meet with the Troops, both of *Brandenburg* and of *Zell*. Being on his March, he received certain information, That the Prince of *Bourbonville*, with the Imperialists, and those of the Duke of *Lorraine*, had joyned with the other Confederates; and that their whole Power was got together between *Colmar* and *Turbach*. Whereupon the said Vicount marched in Battailia in three Lines, having 400 Grenadiers at the head of all. Being come to a certain distance, eight Squadrons of the Enemy were seen to appear, who upon sight of us, retired immediately toward their Main Body; so soon as they perceived our Bridges ready to pass over a certain Water that cut through a Plain which must of necessity be passed over in going to reach them. The Confederates stood in Battailia, in a very large Field, or rather a certain Island of a Triangular Form, made by the two Rivers of *Turchein* and *Colmar*, which two Rivers

do glide along the two longest Angles, and the third being less stretched out, is shut up by a Canal, cut long since, for the Communication of both these Rivers. The Town of *Turckheim* stood on their Right, and their Left Wing was spread even almost as far as *Colmar*. In which Posture and Disposition they stood, expecting our Army, who were making towards them with that undaunted Resolution and Courage, natural to Men who are accustomed to Victory. Our Right Wing being commanded by the Count de *Lorge*, spread it self towards *Colmar*, and the Left commanded by the Count de *Roye*, took the Ground near *Turckheim*; which Ground, though extremely uneven and difficult, was immediately possessed by our Men, with the Town it self, without any resistance: Whereupon, the Enemy, who knowing the great importance of that Post, which they had abandoned but two hours before, made some efforts, though in vain, to regain the same; and did, to as little purpose, fatigue their Infantry, in making them work all that Night to raise a Parapet along the River, to cover them from the shot of ours, who could not come up to them on that side they had fortified. The Enemy did flank the Canal; and therefore some Musketeers were placed there, to beat them farther off the Banks, and to make way for an Attack upon a larger Front; but they no sooner perceived our design, but they caused 8 pieces of Canon, and 6000 Foot, sustained by several Squadrons of Horse, to advance for the defence of that passage, and to be ready, if occasion was, to favor their Retreat when Night came. On our side, the Battalions of *Nawarr*, *des Vaisseaux*, *de la Reine*, the *English*, *d'Anjou*, *d'Orleans*, *Sauville*, and others, who did sustain those that were most advanced, made several Discharges; the Enemy made as many on their part, and kept their stations. The *Sieur de Foucaut*, Lieutenant General, and the *Marquis de Moussi* Brigadier, were Killed there, while they were giving their Orders, and exposing themselves bravely. Great numbers both of Officers and Souldiers, were seen to fall, on the Enemies side; and we lost some on ours. The danger was great; and the Enemies Canon shooting without intermission, did greatly annoy our Foot, whose audacity and resoluteness cannot be expressed. The Count d'*Arbajoux* Colonel of the Regiment *d'Orleans*, with many other Officers, whose names we shall know hereafter, were Wounded, and did highly signalize their Valor; amongst whom the *Sieur de Cefan*, Major General de Brigade, did very considerable service, and shewed a great deal of Action and Conduct that day.

The Vicount de *Turenne*, who ceased not himself to visit our Battalions, and assigne them their several stations, caused the Regiment of Guards to advance; being Commanded by the Count de *Boquemar*, who bravely put it self in Battalia under all the Enemies Shot both great and small; and firing furiously upon them without intermission, forced them at last to give some Ground, and withdraw farther off; upon which retreat of the Enemy, the *Sieur d'Albret* being willing to profit of that opportunity, leaped, sword in hand, into the Canal, at the head of the Regiment of *Nawarr*, and joyned the Enemy; that of *Artois* passing over the Water, at the same time was closing likewise, and all our Battalions either standing upon the Brink, or were already in the Water, when the Vicount de *Turenne*, who could not, in that place, send the Horse to second them; and seeing those of the Enemy advance towards them, Commanded them to retire and repass the Canal and stand as before, along the Shore. In the interim, our Canon (which by reason of several Bridges ours had been forced to make to pass over the Waters, and the badness of the Ways, could not come sooner) arrived just as the day was shutting up. Our Troops notwithstanding the Fatigues of that Day, remained all the Night following under Armes, and the Vicount de *Turenne* disposing all things in order to the attacking the Enemy afresh the next Morning by break of Day, highly Commended all the Officers for their Valor and Conduct: But the Enemy, instead of preparing for a second Action the next Day, withdrew themselves in the Night all along the River, straight

straight to the *Schleissbad* in great disorder and confusion; where they embarked their Canon, the which they could no longer carry by Land, upon the River *Ill*, together with a great number both of Sick and Wounded men; whom they sent in 40 great Boats to *Strasbourg*; whereupon the *Vicomte de Turenne* who doubted not but the *Confederates* themselves would infallibly follow, with all the speed they could, sent immediately to inform the Magistrates of that City, that the King his Master had Commanded him to use their Inhabitants with the same lenity and favor he had hitherto used towards them; and that they should apprehend no harm upon the approaching of the *French Army*, neither to their Persons, or Goods in any kind, in their pursuit after their Enemies; His Majesty being very well satisfied that the Common People of their City, being both seduced and excited by certain persons, who did favor the *Confederates*, had done what they had done, without the consent or participation of the Chief and best part of them.

The next Day being the 8 of this Instant, the Count *de Roze*, with some Troops went to *Ruffach*, which surrendered immediately, and our Army marched to *Châtenoy*, in which were many Officers and Soldiers both Sick and Wounded, that had been abandoned there by their Commanders at the mercy of the Conquerors. The Electors of *Brandenbourg* her self being gone from thence some days before, and there we found that we had taken above 3000 Prisoners, not reckoning those of the Enemies who had taken part with us. The *Sieur de Monlaur*, with the *Brigades d'Humier* and *Laubert*, had Orders to pursue the Rearguard of the *Confederates*; and the *Vicomte de Turenne* went and Encamped at *Schleissbad*. The next morning News was brought, that the Enemy continued their March in great haste and suffered very much, marching close and streightned in their Ranks as they did, not daring to open themselves at all, to seek both Bread and Forage for their Relief, and for their Horses; so that the fear they were in, being more prevalent with them then Discipline, and even then the most pressing Necessities kept them now, against their custom, in awe and obedience to their Officers, who had commanded them not to straggle abroad. The 11. Our General received information by another Party, that the Vanguard of the Enemies had reached within one hours march of *Strasbourg*; and that a new Succour of 5000 fresh men, sent them by the Emperor, having joined with their Army that very day, had not been able to alter their Resolution of returning home into *Germany*.

The End of this Campaigne held; for a great while shall *Europe* in a suspense; and we hope it will not be possible for our Enemies now to disguise either the Importance or the Truth of it from the World: The most secret Nations cannot be ignorant of the Numbers, Leagues, and Projects of this Coalition: Most People by this time, we hope are very well informed, that they have not hitherto employed their Forces spread every where, in *Flandery* and *Germany*, with any great success, but only in their putting a Garrison into *Aischel Chapelle*, taking by force several places in the Bishoprick of *Liege*, against the Laws and Privileges of Neutrality, and in making themselves Masters of the Bridge at *Strasbourg* to repass the *Rhine*; so that we may say, that the *Confederates* have now sent out their Army to the Rhine, and have taken possession of the Bridge at *Strasbourg*, and have sent out their Army to the Rhine, and have taken possession of the Bridge at *Strasbourg*.

F I N I S.